

**THE SOUTHWELL MINSTER CHOIR ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2025

Charity registration number 1000584

RWB CA Limited
Northgate House
North Gate
New Basford
Nottingham
NG7 7BQ

THE SOUTHWELL MINSTER CHOIR ASSOCIATION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name	The Southwell Minster Choir Association
Charity registration number	1000584
Principal Address	47 Easthorpe Southwell NG25 0HY
Clerk to the Trustees	Mr Laurence Cunnington 47 Easthorpe Southwell NG25 0HY
Trustees	Colonel David Rupert Sneath Ms Elizabeth Helen Johnson Mrs Adrienne Pauline Patterson Rev Canon Dr Richard Frith Mr Jonathan Michael Nicholas Allsopp Mr Laurence Clifford Cunnington Mr Paul Anthony Provost Mr Michael Norman Davidson
Independent Examiner	Nick Bonnelo FCA RWB Chartered Accountants Northgate House North Gate New Basford Nottingham NG7 7BQ

THE SOUTHWELL MINSTER CHOIR ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees are pleased to present their report for year ended 31 March 2025.

Reference and administrative details

Reference and administrative details are shown on page 1, the trustees whose names are shown on page 1 served throughout the year unless otherwise noted.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust was created by Constitution, adopted 21st July 1989.

The Trustees have examined the principal areas of the Trust's operations and considered the major risks faced. In the opinion of the Trustees, the Trust has established systems to mitigate those risks to an acceptable level. The Trustees ensure that all the charity's activities are conducted within both the letter and the culture of the safeguarding policies of Southwell Minster.

A revised version of the Constitution was adopted at the charity's AGM on 19th November 2023. The reasons for this revision were set out in detail in that year's trustees' report. In summary, the 'objectives and activities' statement was clarified to include formally the Minster Chorale (and any future similar choirs); outdated gender-specific language was removed from the document; and the number of trustees was increased to eight.

The revised Constitution was submitted to the Charity Commission on 14th February 2024 - the delay of three months from adoption to submission was caused by implementation problems with the Commission's new online system. On 20th June 2024, the Charity Commission advised that the proposed wording of the 'Objects and Beneficiaries' had been rejected and required further clarification. The revised Constitution was again submitted to the Commission and was again rejected, despite its objections having been fully addressed in the second submission.

Against this background, the Association still operates officially under the older Constitution document whilst acting as though the slightly revised Constitution had been accepted by the Charity Commission. There are no plans to resubmit the document to the Commission as none of the changes materially affect the objectives and activities of the charity.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the charity, as currently filed with the Charity Commission, are the study and practice of choral music, in particular church music in order to foster the public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance and to promote the development of the choir of Southwell Minster.

The principal activities of the Trust are:

1. Concert tours by the lay clerks, choristers, and the Minster Chorale
2. A programme of concerts throughout the year
3. Involvement of the local community in musical performance
4. Educational and team-building events for the choristers
5. Financial support for the parents of choristers
6. Other related activities, both educational and social, to develop the choirs of Southwell Minster

In planning their activities, the Trustees keep in mind at all times the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

1 Concert tours

- The cost of tours is substantial, and they require considerable time to organise. This means that, at most, they are arranged every two years. No tour was held during this financial year – the next is being planned for 2026.

THE SOUTHWELL MINSTER CHOIR ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

2 **Concert programme during the year**

- A full programme of six concerts in the 'Music in the State Chamber' series was held.
- The Lay Clerks performed at the annual 'Carols in the State Chamber' concert.
- The Music Foundation, including the Minster Chorale, held its Summer Concert in July 2024, performing works by Bernstein, Britten, Stanford, and others.

3 **Involvement of the local community in musical performance**

- The annual Messiah concert was held in December 2024. Conducted by the Assistant Director of Music, Jonny Allsopp, the voices of the Minster Chorale and a singing group from the Minster School were augmented by professional soloists - including now-adult former choristers - and the concert was accompanied by the Musical & Amicable Society.
- A successful 'Come & Sing' presentation of Haydn's 'Nelson Mass' was held in February 2025.

4 **Educational and team-building events for the choristers**

- Together with the Lay Clerks, the choristers participated in the 2024 Four Choir Festival.
- The choristers enjoyed a ten-pin bowling trip in June 2024.
- Initially funded by a community grant of £6,200 received from the Co-op, the 'Melody Makers' group was launched towards the end of 2022. Children from school Years 1 and 2 are introduced to choral singing as a goal in itself but also successfully acting as a 'feeder' group to the main Minster choir. The group is led by one of the Lay Clerks, Lauren Osmond, who is also a primary school teacher.

5 **Financial support for the parents of choristers**

- Since its inception in 2011, the discretionary travel grant scheme has paid out over £27,000 to the parents/carers of choristers with a home address more than seven miles from the Minster
- The scheme, which is not means-tested, is a valuable recruitment and retention tool which has been greatly appreciated by the parents who have benefitted from it. Six chorister families made claims under the scheme during the financial year.

6 **Other related activities**

Quiz & Curry Night

- Making a profit of over £400, this social and fund-raising event was held in the State Chamber in November 2024. Retired Senior Lay Clerk and professional quiz-question setter, Guy Turner, hosted this enjoyable evening which is now an annual fixture in the Association's calendar.

30th Anniversary of the Minster Chorale

- A dinner was held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Minster Chorale and to honour the place of the choir in the Music Foundation.

Celebrating the foundation of the Girls' Choir

- SMCA organised and funded an afternoon tea in March 2025 for former girl choristers, marking twenty years since the foundation of the Girls' Choir.

Wine-tasting evening

- Organised by Jonny Allsopp, Assistant Director of Music and wine connoisseur, this popular event made a profit of £572.

Honours board and prizes

- The honours board is maintained at the expense of the Choir Association.

THE SOUTHWELL MINSTER CHOIR ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

- Six prizes of £50 each were awarded to three girl choristers and three boy choristers at the end of the academic year.

Choral Outreach Programme

- The Choral Outreach Programme – started in 2010 - is administered by SMCA and has been funded by the Chapter of Southwell Minster, The Heritage Lottery Fund, The Pilling Trust, and an anonymous private donor. It was brought to a close during the year as the previous donors are no longer in a position to continue funding the programme.
- The remaining balance of this fund (£5.28) was transferred to the general funds of the charity in June 2025.

The Thiman Collection

- Funded by a member of the Thiman family, the objective of this project is to create a physical archive of every known piece of music by the prolific composer, Eric Harding Thiman (1900-1975).
- After many years' work by Guy Turner, the project is all but complete and creates a national resource for further academic/doctoral research. The archive comprises more than 1300 pieces and is referenced in the composer's Wikipedia article.

Refreshments Team

- Led by Elizabeth Johnson, the volunteer refreshments team provided interval drinks and snacks at concerts throughout the year, including concerts staged by outside organisations. As well as refreshing the audiences, the team's work generated a profit of £3,617 for the Association.

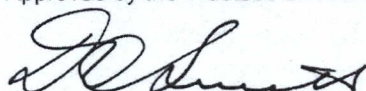
Financial Review

- Total net assets as at 31st March 2025 were £33,439 compared to £30,722 as at 31st March 2023, an increase of £2,717.
- Expenditure during the year on charitable activities totalled £30,258 compared to £73,233 the previous year. Expenditure in the previous year was significantly higher due to the cost of the Sées Tour and two major orchestral concerts.
- Income during the year totalled £33,309 compared to £49,500 the previous year.
- It is the opinion of the Trustees that the charity remains in a sound financial position

Acknowledgements and thanks

- The Trustees would like to thank the members of the Association for their subscriptions, regular donors, refreshments team volunteers, and the local community for their generous support of the charity's activities.
- Private thanks have been given to an anonymous donor who generously contributed £2,500 to support the education of the choristers.
- Gratitude is also expressed to the officers and members of the Committee and the staff of the Music Department of Southwell Minster for their work in supporting the activities of the Association.

Approved by the Trustees on 30.09.25 and signed on their behalf by:



Colonel David Rupert Sneath
Chair

THE SOUTHWELL MINSTER CHOIR ASSOCIATION
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE SOUTHWELL MINSTER CHOIR ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Southwell Minster Choir Association for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 6 and 7.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

As the charity's trustees of the Southwell Mister Choir Association, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

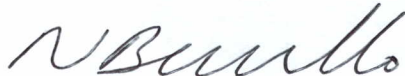
I report in respect of my examination of the Southwell Mister Choir Association accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of The Southwell Minster Choir Association as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Nick Bonello FCA
RWB Chartered Accountants
Northgate House
North Gate
New Basford
Nottingham
NG7 7BQ

Date:*30/08/2025*.....

THE SOUTHWELL MINSTER CHOIR ASSOCIATION
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Receipts				
Donations	3,431	-	3,431	7,411
Fundraising	24,953	-	24,953	36,543
Tour Income	-	-	-	-
Annual subscriptions	2,430	-	2,430	2,050
Bank interest	-	-	-	-
Other income	2,403	92	2,495	3,497
	<u>33,217</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>33,309</u>	<u>49,500</u>
Assets and investment sales				
Receipts from sale of investments	4,000	-	4,000	20,000
Total receipts	<u>37,217</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>37,309</u>	<u>69,500</u>
Payments				
Fundraising	21,534	-	21,534	36,719
Tour Activity	-	-	-	23,917
Choir Activity	2,084	-	2,084	1,686
Administration expenses	1,529	-	1,529	1,003
Miscellaneous expenses	3,613	1,498	5,111	9,898
	<u>28,760</u>	<u>1,498</u>	<u>30,258</u>	<u>73,223</u>
Assets and investment purchases				
Purchase of investments	-	-	-	-
Total payments	<u>28,790</u>	<u>1,498</u>	<u>30,258</u>	<u>73,223</u>
Net receipts (payments)	8,457	(1,406)	7,051	(3,723)
Transfers between funds	(202)	202	-	-
Cash funds as at 31 March 2024	2,371	1,433	3,804	7,527
Cash funds as at 31 March 2025	<u>10,626</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>10,855</u>	<u>3,804</u>

THE SOUTHWELL MINSTER CHOIR ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2024 £
Cash Funds				
NatWest current account	10,587	230	10,817	3,766
Mansfield Building Society	-	-	-	-
Petty cash	38	-	38	38
	<u>10,625</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>10,855</u>	<u>3,804</u>
Investment assets held with CCLA	-	-	-	-
Market Value	23,089	-	23,089	27,392
Cost: £24,134	-	-	-	-
	<u>33,713</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>33,943</u>	<u>31,196</u>
Total Assets				
Liabilities Examiners fees	504	-	504	474
	<u>504</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>504</u>	<u>474</u>
Net Assets	<u>33,209</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>33,439</u>	<u>30,722</u>

	Balance at 01 April 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Restricted Funds					
Choral Outreach Project	923	-	(847)	-	76
Eric Thiman Collection	356	92	(650)	202	-
Old Choristers' Association	154	-	-	-	154
	<u>1,433</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>(1,497)</u>	<u>202</u>	<u>230</u>

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees on 30.08.25


Colonel David Rupert Sneath
Chair

THE SOUTHWELL MINSTER CHOIR ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
1 Income from fundraising				
Christmas card sales	-	-	-	1,083
Channel Swim 2022	-	-	-	-
Other concerts	14,577	-	14,577	20,745
Refreshments sales	5,960	-	5,960	3,845
Music in the State Chamber	1,491	-	1,491	1,869
Wine Tasting 2024	890	-	-	-
Quiz & Curry Night	1,440	-	1,440	1,560
Sées Tour 2023	-	-	-	7,442
Chorale 30th Dinner	595	-	595	-
	<u>24,953</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,063</u>	<u>36,543</u>
2 Other income				
Choral Outreach Project (Sing Up)	-	-	-	-
Eric Thiman Collection	-	92	92	577
Melody Makers	820	-	820	1,269
Gift Aid	1,570	-	1,570	1,651
Miscellaneous Income	13	-	13	-
	<u>2,403</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>2,494</u>	<u>3,497</u>
3 Expenditure on fundraising				
Christmas cards	-	-	-	1,237
Refreshment expenses	2,344	-	2,344	1,713
Other concerts and expenses	1,881	-	1,881	14,439
Four Choirs Festival 2024	1,089	-	1,089	-
Music in the State Chamber	377	-	377	503
Quiz & Curry Night	1,031	-	1,031	984
Summer Concert 2024	1,024	-	1,024	-
Messiah 2024	8,126	-	8,126	8,370
Publicity General	387	-	387	1,038
St John Passion 2024	4,956	-	4,956	8,214
Wine Tasting 2024	319	-	319	221
	<u>21,534</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,534</u>	<u>36,719</u>
4 Tour Activity				
Choral tour 2024	-	-	-	4,226
Sées Tour 2024	-	-	-	19,691
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,917</u>

THE SOUTHWELL MINSTER CHOIR ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
5 Choir Activities				
BBQ	1,170	-	1,170	1,120
Outing	383	-	383	350
Bowling	531	-	531	216
Workshop	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,084</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,084</u>	<u>1,686</u>
6 Miscellaneous expenses				
Choral Outreach Project (Sing Up)	-	847	847	4,519
Eric Thiman Collection	-	650	650	515
Honours Board	120	-	120	110
Minster Chorale	-	-	-	-
Travel Grants	2,035	-	2,035	1,787
Prizes	200	-	200	350
Music Commissions	-	-	-	-
Music Folders	-	-	-	-
Insurance	245	-	245	212
Melody Makers Expenses	968	-	968	1,214
Other	46	-	46	1,191
	<u>3,614</u>	<u>1,498</u>	<u>5,111</u>	<u>9,898</u>